

Thank you madam chairperson and fellow committee members:

I appreciate you giving us the opportunity to express our support for House Bill 4854. As the Divestment Coordinator for Michigan State's Spartans Taking Action Now: Darfur or (STAND) it has been a longtime goal of our organization to see Michigan enact targeted divestment from companies involved with the government of Sudan. These companies are essentially funding and allowing the genocide to occur.

The genocide in Darfur started in 2004 and has been perpetuated by the Sudanese government for the past three years. We founded MSU STAND almost three years ago, and since then, thousands of students from across the state have joined in the movement to save Darfur.

The innocent and defenseless people of Darfur have had to endure countless instances of murder, rape, and displacement out of their homes into refugee camps for internally displaced persons. We have spoken to several Darfuri refugees, including one young boy who made it out of Darfur, but goes to bed every night wondering if his parents and his little sister are still alive. **It is unacceptable** for any citizen of the world to have to endure what the people of Darfur have had to on a daily basis.

We have committed ourselves to telling people about Darfur and moving them to action. In our advocacy on campus and across the state students have come together in support of Sudan Divestment. Over and over we have heard the same message: the students of Michigan do not want our money funding genocide. **Together**, our voice will be constant and persistent: Divest from Sudan and be proud that Michigan stood strong against genocide.

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